BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-12 March 25th, 2013

- **Sales of manufactured goods in British Columbia increased 1.6% in January**
- **Wholesale sales in B.C. rose 6.2% in January**
- **British Columbia's population increased by 1,037 people in the fourth quarter of 2012**

The Economy

- **Sales of goods manufactured in the province rose 2.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in January, following a 3.5% decline in the previous month.** Sales by manufacturers of durable goods advanced 2.8%, reflecting an improvement in the wood industry (+3.0%), and a rebound in sales by producers of machinery (+7.6%) and primary (+2.0%) and fabricated (+6.0%) metal products.

  Manufacturers of non-durable goods saw sales expand 1.3%. Gains in chemicals (+4.6%) and plastics & rubber (+9.7%) and other non-durable goods-producing industries were partly offset by a drop in sales by producers of paper (–3.1%), and virtually no change in food sales.

  Canadian shipments fell (–0.2%) in January for the second month in a row, with four provinces recording losses. Strong sales in Alberta (+6.3%), Newfoundland & Labrador (+5.7%), and Manitoba (+4.4%) were offset by declines in New Brunswick (–6.7%), Saskatchewan (–4.9%), Quebec (–2.7%), and Ontario (–0.8%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Retail sales in B.C. advanced 1.0% (*seasonally adjusted*) in January, following a 0.9% slip in the previous month.** Sporting goods and miscellaneous retailers fared the best, bouncing back after suffering contractions in December. Sales at gas stations and motor vehicle and parts dealers increased moderately. Food & beverage and clothing stores, which together accounted for just over 30% of sales, both registered declines.

  British Columbia's gain matched the national average (+1.0%), though the strongest growth occurred in Quebec (+2.1%) and Alberta (+1.3%). Ontario (+0.5%), New Brunswick (+0.3%), and Manitoba (+0.1%) all recorded anaemic growth, while sales were flat in Saskatchewan. Retailers in PEI (–0.7%), Nova Scotia (–0.3%), and Newfoundland & Labrador (–0.2%) saw sales fall in January.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **B.C. wholesale sales climbed 6.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in January.** Sectors providing personal & household goods, and machinery, equipment & supplies saw robust sales, while wholesalers of building materials & supplies recorded slightly weaker sales. The national total for wholesalers rose 2.6%, with two provinces experiencing lower sales. Saskatchewan (+7.1%), Manitoba (+5.3%), and Quebec (+4.3%) also recorded strong growth, while there were moderate losses in New Brunswick (–1.2%) and PEI (–0.4%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Investment in new housing construction in B.C. increased 4.4% (*unadjusted, current prices*) in January, over the same month in the previous year.** Investment was higher in double family dwellings (+18.5%) and apartments (+19.6%), but fell in single family dwellings (–3.7%) and row housing (–19.6%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Population

- **On January 1st, 2013, British Columbia's population was estimated at 4,639,862.** The population remained relatively stable over the fourth quarter of 2012, increasing by only 1,037 persons or 0.02% between October 1st

Did you know...

Among British Columbians, 50% of males and 23% of females strongly agree that they feel safe walking alone in their own neighbourhood after dark. *Source: Iposos Reid Canada*

and January 1st. During the last three months of 2012, the combined migration from all sources amounted to an outflow of 1,504 people. This was the result of continued net losses to other Canadian jurisdictions and a large decline in the non-permanent resident population. The most important factor in B.C.'s population growth in the fourth quarter of 2012 was a natural change (births less deaths) of 2,541. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The Canadian population grew marginally in the fourth quarter, reaching 35,056,064 (an increase of 0.15%).** Alberta (+0.63%), Saskatchewan (+0.30%) and Manitoba (+0.29%) were the only provinces to outpace national growth. Meanwhile, at the other end of the country, Nova Scotia (−0.11%), New Brunswick (−0.09%) and Prince Edward Island (−0.19%) were the only provinces that posted losses. Ontario (+0.11%) and Quebec (+0.10%) recorded population growth rates just under the national rate. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Labour

- **The number of beneficiaries receiving regular Employment Insurance (E.I.) benefits in British Columbia fell 0.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in January.** There were 55,880 beneficiaries, of which 32,390 (–0.4%) were male and 23,480 (–0.6%) were female.

  Nationally, the number of beneficiaries fell 1.6%, with a decline of 2.7% in the 15 to 24 year old cohort, and 2.0% among 25 to 54 year olds, but edged up very slightly (+0.1%) in the group of workers aged 55 and over. Every province recorded a reduction in the number of beneficiaries, with Quebec (–1.5%) and Ontario (–1.1%) accounting for much of the decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **There were 8,200 (*three-month average*) fewer unemployed workers in British Columbia in December compared to the same period in the previous year, for a total of 148,700.** Nationally, the number of unemployed workers fell by 23,500, with five provinces recording declines. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of job vacancies increased 34.0% (*three-month average*) in December, the second fastest rate among the provinces.** There were 31,500 vacancies recorded, up from 23,500 in the same period of 2011. The ratio of unemployment-to-job vacancies fell to 4.7 (–2.0 points), ranking the fourth lowest among the provinces.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **Traveller entries to B.C. from the US and overseas were up 0.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in January as entries from the US increased 1.7%, offsetting declines recorded in November (–0.5%) and December (–0.2%).** There was an increase in both same-day (+2.4%) and overnight (+1.3%) visitors from the US. Visitor entries from the rest of the world contracted 1.9%, with visits from Asia (–3.3%) and Europe (–2.3%) both in decline, while entries from other parts of the world edged up 1.7%.

  The number of Canadians returning home from abroad rose 2.3% in December, with more coming home from the US (+3.3%), and fewer returning from other parts of the world (–8.2%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **Foreign investment in Canadian securities totalled $13.3 billion (*cumulative transactions*) in January.** Foreign investors favoured Canadian bonds (+$11.9 billion), specifically corporate bonds (+$9.8 billion), while transactions of money market instruments fell by $241 million, as government money fund purchases contracted by $3.5 billion.

  Canadian investment in foreign securities declined (–$1.2 billion), due to a reduction in debt securities (–$3.4 billion), as holdings of equity and investment fund shares increased $2.2 billion. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

***Infoline** Issue: 13-12*
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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,639.9	0.8
Canada	35,056.1	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jan 2013	3,188	2.1
Merchandise Exports - Jan 2013	2,716	9.3
Retail Sales - Jan 2013	5,118	1.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jan 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.3	1.0
Vancouver	0.5	1.2
Victoria	0.1	0.9
Canada	0.5	1.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Feb 2013	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	19.8	
Labour Force - BC	2,472.1	0.8
Employed - BC	2,317.4	0.9
Unemployed - BC	154.7	0.2
		Jan 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.3	6.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.0	7.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Mar 20/2013	Mar 21/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.20
- 5 year	5.14	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Mar 20/2013	Mar 21/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0268	0.9931
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9752	1.0078
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Feb 2013	one year ago
BC	876.87	1.9
Canada	872.00	1.9

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Quarterly Population Highlights, 4th Qtr 2012

To Release next week

- Consumer Price Index, February 2013
- Business Indicators, March 2013

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